



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Redding, CA

March 23, 2013

STAFF REPORT: Natural Resources Synthesis of Forest Service Lands

STAFF: Christopher Huitt, Environmental Program Manager

SUBJECT: Science Synthesis Report

Summary

National Forests in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascades are preparing to review and revise their land and resource management plans (LRMPs). The three most southern national forests of the Sierra Nevada (Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra) were selected to be the lead forests for Region 5 and are among the first of the 155 national forests to update their plans. The 2012 National Forest System Planning Rule requires the forests to consider the best available science and encourages a more active role for research in plan development.

In February 2013 the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) released the report “Science Synthesis to Support Land and Resource Management Plan Revision in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascades” (the 2013 Science Synthesis Report), which presents a synthesis of recent science relevant to forest planning in an area that includes the forested mountains of the Sierra Nevada, the southern Cascade Range, and the Modoc Plateau (see Attachment 1). The Science Synthesis Report will be used to support the LRMP revision process.

Discussion

The 2013 Science Synthesis Report integrates findings from a range of scientific disciplines to inform the development of management strategies. The goal of the synthesis is to inform forest planning across the synthesis area rather than tactics at the project level. Strategic planning helps to define broad, integrative approaches that guide the goals, location, and timing of projects. The topics identified and discussed in the Science Synthesis Report include: Forest Ecology, Genetics of Forest Trees, Fire, Fire and Fuels, Fire and Tribal Cultural Resources, Post-wildfire Management, Soils, Water Resources and Aquatic Ecosystems, Terrestrial Wildlife, Air Quality, and Social/Economic/Cultural Components.

In February 2013, the Stewards of the Sequoia (SOTS) submitted a comment letter to the USFS, cosigned by over 60 organizations and clubs representing a variety of

motorized and non-motorized recreation and land use interests, challenging the 2013 Science Synthesis Report as flawed and biased. Their 16 page letter provided comments on specific sections of the 2013 Science Synthesis Report, a list of citations SOTS believes to be inappropriate or in error, and additional information recommended by SOTS for inclusion into the report.

Commission Action

The Commission may:

1. Take no action.
2. Submit a comment letter to the USFS.

Attachments

Attachment 1: USFS Science Synthesis Regional Map

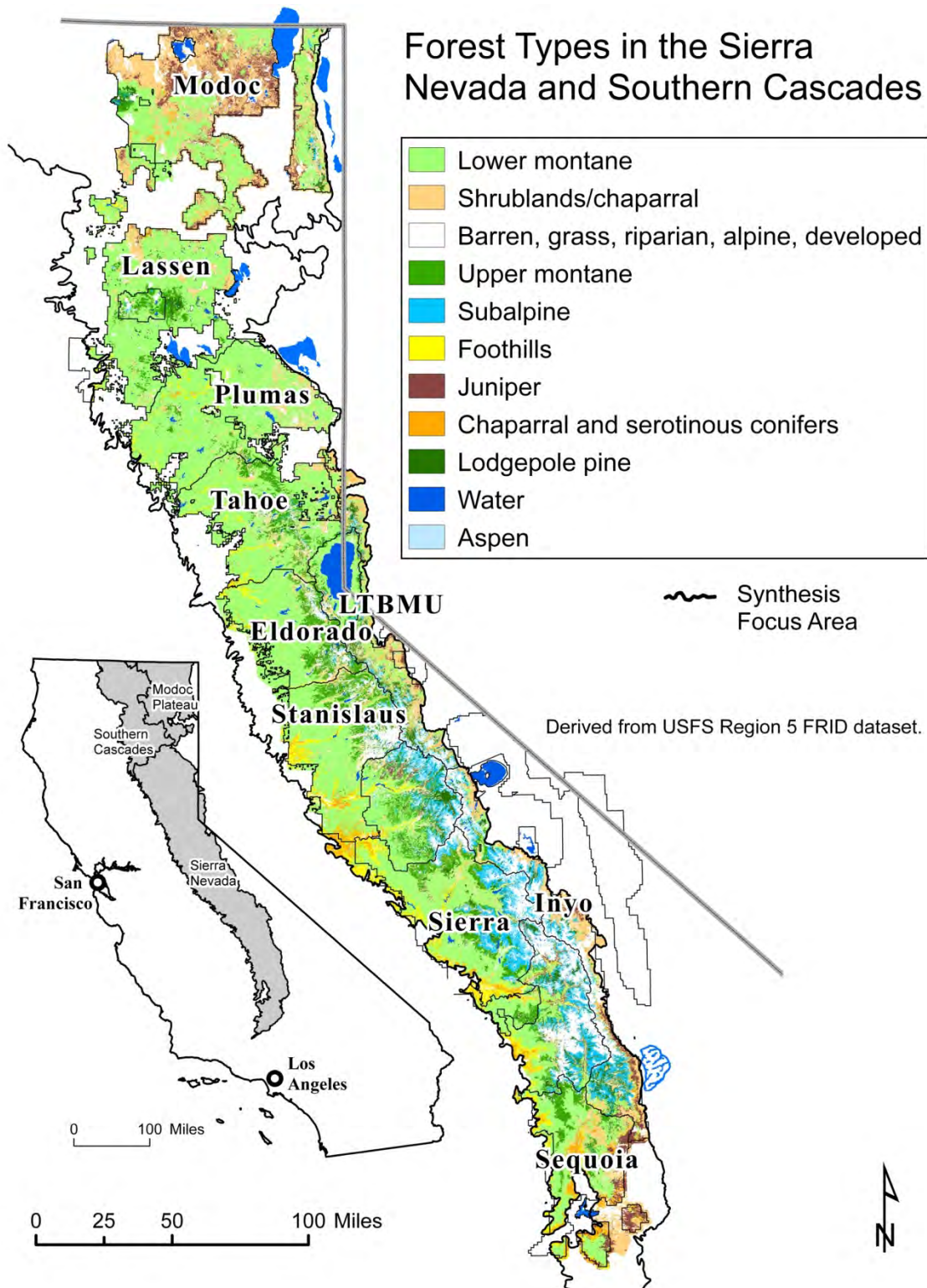


Figure 1: Focal areas of this synthesis are the conifer-dominated forests in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada, southern Cascades, and Modoc Plateau.